

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing local information about a network portal to a destination server, comprising:
5 creating a message containing substitutable variables and addressed to said destination server;
 sending said message;
 receiving said message at said network portal;
 detecting said substitutable variables in said message;
10 amending said message at said network portal in response to detecting said substitutable variables by replacing said substitutable variables in said message with said local information; and
 sending amended message to said destination server.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said message and said amended message are formatted according to a text-based Internet protocol.
3. The method of Claim 2, wherein said text-based Internet protocol is Hypertext Transfer Protocol.
- 20 4. The method of Claim 2, wherein said text-based Internet protocol is Session Initiation Protocol.
5. The method of Claim 2, wherein said text-based Internet protocol is Simple
25 Mail Transfer Protocol.
6. The method of Claim 2, where said network portal is an Internet Appliance.
7. A network portal configured to provide local information to a destination
30 server, comprising:
 memory for storing said local information in association with a substitutable variable;
 a receiver for receiving a message, said message addressed to said destination server and consisting partly of said substitutable variable;

means for identifying said substitutable variable in said message;
a processor for replacing said substitutable variable in said message
with said local information from said memory, thereby creating an amended
message; and

5 a transmitter for sending said amended message to said destination
server.

8. The network portal of claim 7 wherein said message and said amended
message are formatted according to a text-based Internet protocol.

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9. The network portal of Claim 8, wherein said text-based Internet protocol is
Hypertext Transfer Protocol.

10. The network portal of Claim 8, wherein said text-based Internet protocol is
15 Session Initiation Protocol.

11. The network portal of Claim 8, wherein said text-based Internet protocol is
Simple Mail Transfer Protocol.

20 12. The network portal of Claim 8, wherein said network portal may be an
Internet Appliance.